

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Claims 21-24 have been added. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. Claim 12 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks and amendments are respectfully requested.

Preliminarily, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for meeting with us and providing us ample time to discuss the present invention during the interview of November 30, 2007, and promptly sending us an interview summary thereafter.

Claims 1-3, 5, 10-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Farooq et al., WO/24825 (hereinafter "Farooq"). Claims 4, 6-9, 15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Farooq. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have amended the claims to specify that the particles are dispersed in an inert carrier. Farooq neither teaches articles with dispersed particles or processes using dispersed particles nor provides motivation to one of skill in the art to disperse particles in an inert carrier relative to the matrix material. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Therefore, all rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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